

PS

POWERSOURCE



from the CEO

Santee Cooper is in the energy and water business. What you may not know is we're also in the energy-efficiency business. While it may seem counterintuitive to encourage customers to use less of our product, there are many reasons why we do just that.

To ensure customers have reliable power at their fingertips, Santee Cooper must be prepared with enough power to meet peak electric demand. When customers use less electricity, Santee Cooper doesn't have to provide as much power, which is more cost-effective for all customers on the system than, for example, having to build additional power plants. Also, customers who apply energy-efficiency measures in their homes or businesses can save money. Plus, energy conservation is good for the environment.

By the end of 2018, Santee Cooper's Reduce The Use energy-efficiency programs were saving customers 209 gigawatt hours a year, an energy savings goal reached two years ahead of our 2020 target. These programs also saved customers money – more than \$250 million since their launch in 2008.

Now, as you'll see later in this issue, Santee Cooper has a new suite of programs that embraces new technologies and opportunities. EmpowerSC offers programs that help customers understand their daily energy habits and why it's important to know how and when they use electricity. In other words, EmpowerSC is providing the knowledge, tools and resources customers need to empower themselves to make the best energy choices for their homes or businesses. That, in turn, helps all Santee Cooper customers.

With EmpowerSC, customers can still take advantage of familiar incentives like rebates, low-interest loans



and House Calls with energy experts. EmpowerSC also continues our successful home, business and community solar programs. One major new initiative is EmpowerAuto, which provides rebates for electric vehicle chargers and information related to electric vehicles. And as we continue to upgrade customers to advanced meters, they will see new programs designed around the ability to view their energy consumption on a near real-time basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark J. Bonsall".

Mark Bonsall
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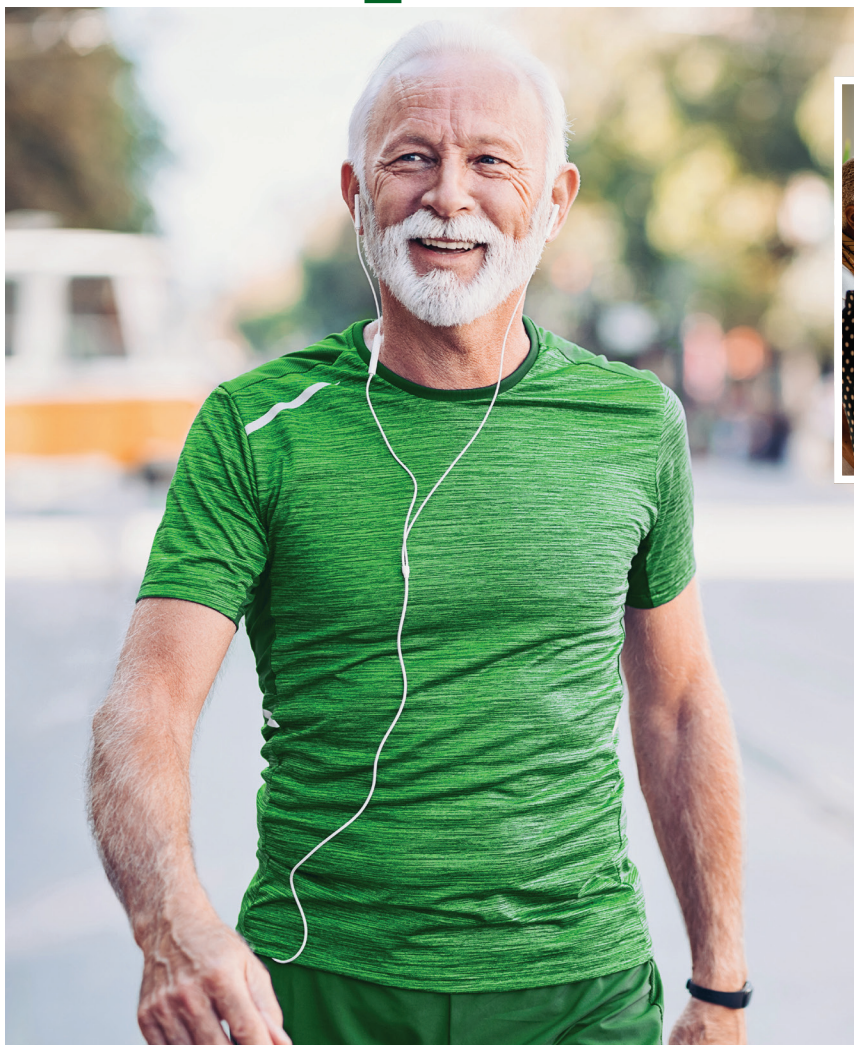
About the Cover

Photo by Paul Zoeller

The comet Neowise soars over Lake Moultrie
at dusk on July 23, 2020.



Putting the Power in Your Hands with **empower^{sc}**



By Tracy Vreeland



Would you like
to have more
control over
your energy use
and learn to use
power so it's more
economical and
lowers your bill?

Santee Cooper
is investing in
our infrastructure
to help serve our
customers better,
to empower you.
Our new
EmpowerSC
program offers
power,
incentives and
knowledge that
will empower a
brighter future
for us all.

Santee Cooper has been investing in new infrastructure to give customers better control over how they use energy. We're upgrading our meters to advanced meters. Advanced meters are more accurate and send energy usage right to us, so we no longer need to send a meter reader to homes and businesses. We're upgrading our customer platform, MyEnergyLinkSC.com (MEL), so it can display daily electricity usage right from that meter. That information can help customers decide when to use energy, allowing them to become more energy efficient and ultimately help lower their bills.

"These upgrades are going to give our customers more information so they can make decisions like turning down their thermostat or when to do laundry," said Bryan Lewis, Customer Service Retail Director. "Customers will be able to save money by using power when it's in less demand."

EmpowerSC helps with some pretty cool offers:

Rebates

There are rebates for smart thermostats that will learn behaviors and adjust the temperature even when no one is home. There are also rebates for duct work, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and more. Upgrading to more efficient equipment can save energy and money in the long run.

EV Charger Rebate

EmpowerSC also offers a rebate for an electric vehicle (EV) charger. Plug-in electric vehicles offer a clean, quiet, enjoyable ride. We're offering a rebate of up to \$500 for a qualifying level 2 charging station, which uses the same type of plug as an electric stove. Carmakers are promising drivers the next generation of EVs will be more affordable and have at least 200 miles of battery range on a single charge. EVs have the added advantage of being better for

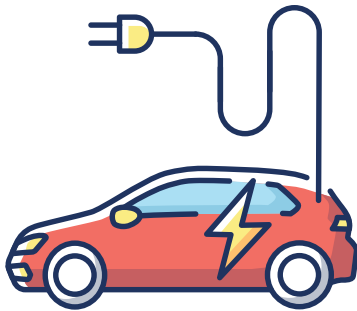
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Top to bottom:
Santee Cooper
recently installed
a level 2 charger
at Camp Hall's
Information Center.

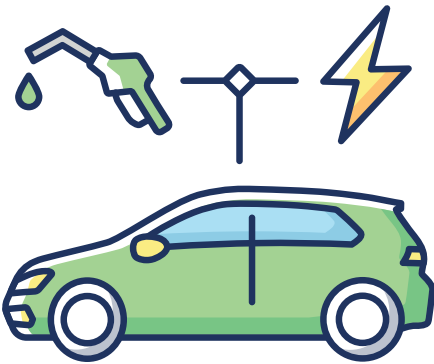
**Battery electric
vehicles can easily
be charged at home
using either level 1
or level 2 chargers.**

ELECTRIC VEHICLES 101



BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Battery electric vehicles, often referred to as BEVs, are vehicles powered solely by electricity collected through rechargeable battery packs. The range of new BEVs can be anywhere from 85 to 500 miles, depending on the make and model. Moving forward, manufacturers are aiming to make affordable BEVs with over 200 miles of range. In fact, there are currently five BEVs on the market with 200+ mile range and a starting price tag of less than \$40,000.



PLUG-IN HYBRID VEHICLES

Plug-in hybrids, which are also known as PHEVs, are powered by a battery for short trips and an internal combustion engine for long trips. The first 10 to 50+ miles of range (depending on make and model) are powered by electricity stored in a battery inside the vehicle. Once the battery is depleted, the vehicle seamlessly switches over to an internal combustion engine that uses gasoline to power the vehicle. No matter the power source, regenerative braking is constantly being used to recuperate energy loss. With typical fuel ranges of 350 to 500 miles, PHEVs are a great option for any driver.

CHARGING UP

When charging your BEV or PHEV, you have three charging options:

LEVEL ONE CHARGER

The battery can be charged at home through a simple 120-volt outlet known as a level 1 charger. It is the most convenient option, but it is also the slowest option.

LEVEL TWO CHARGER

The battery can be charged through a 240-volt outlet using a level 2 charger. Level 2 chargers can charge about 5 times as fast as a level 1 charger, but often times electrical work needs to be completed in order to install a 240 volt outlet where the charger will go. Santee Cooper is currently offering up to \$500 in rebates for a qualified level 2 charger for residential customers.

DC FAST CHARGER

On the go, EVs can also be charged using a DC fast charger. A DC fast charger is the fastest type of charger, however the current costs of purchasing one are very high and for that reason are only found in commercial settings.



Santee Cooper Trade Allies

Santee Cooper customers who have decided to take advantage of one of our EmpowerSC rebates can also connect with Santee Cooper Trade Allies for added benefit.

Santee Cooper works with contractors who meet standards and requirements to become part of our Trade Ally network. Our Trade Allies are experts on Santee Cooper's programs and must meet certain levels of licensing, certification, training and insurance. They also agree to random inspections by Santee Cooper to verify the accuracy and validity of their work.

Plus, before contractors can join the Trade Ally network, Santee Cooper checks in with former customers to verify certification.

"We want to make sure Trade Allies are more than capable and reliable," said Jim Rabon, Senior Manager of Conservation and Energy Efficiency. "They also have to be good stewards of the work we do here at Santee Cooper."

Santee Cooper Trade Allies have the most up-to-date information on our programs and rebates and can help customers navigate what may work best for them, and also guide them through rebate applications. Qualified Trade Allies for Home, Business and Solar are listed at **EmpowerSC.com**.

the environment, especially those getting their charge from clean energy sources, which greatly reduces the amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with driving.

"Our electric vehicle charger rebate goes hand-in-hand with our commitment to rely more on cleaner, greener fuel resources," said Jim Rabon, Senior Manager of Conservation and Energy Efficiency. "As we encourage our customers to go electric, we're working to rely more on solar power and less on coal."

Although they still emit some tailpipe emissions, plug-in hybrid vehicles reduce both fuel consumption and overall emissions in comparison to a traditional internal combustion vehicle. As a result, they help reduce overall carbon dioxide emissions.

Solar Programs

If you're a Santee Cooper customer, consider our solar programs. Whether you want to buy panels to install on your roof or receive a share of our community solar farm, you can help the environment for generations to come. We

offer rebates and credits for our rooftop solar customers. We don't sell or install the systems; we encourage customers to work with a Santee Cooper Trade Ally for that. Customers who don't want rooftop panels can consider our Solar Share community solar program, in which they subscribe to a share of the energy produced by the Colleton Solar Farm based on the size and setup of their home or business, and Santee Cooper takes care of the rest. That means customers can have solar power without putting panels on their roof, or even if they don't have a roof.

"With Solar Share, we evaluate how much energy you use and when, so you know if it's the right investment for you," said Rabon.

EmpowerSC is about giving our customers the tools they need to make smart energy choices, while providing the help and support to get the tools in hand and ultimately save money. Plus, customers' good energy habits can help alleviate the need to add generation, which helps keep rates low.

You can find more on these and programs to come on **EmpowerSC.com**.



"Our electric vehicle charger rebate goes hand-in-hand with our commitment to rely more on cleaner, greener fuel resources."

JIM RABON

SENIOR MANAGER OF CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Photos by Paul Zoeller

SAFETY SUCCESS

By Jeff Straight

It certainly would be an understatement to say 2020 was a year full of distractions. People from every generation agree that times are as unusual now as they've ever been. Regardless of the turmoil, folks wake up every day and do their best to be productive and not let the chaos around them deter them from their goals. Santee Cooper employees are no exception.

With only 10 recordable safety incidents in 2020, Santee Cooper has tied its best safety year. As a matter of fact, that year was 2018, which means that out of the past three years, two of them tied for best in company history regarding safety.

By the Numbers

So, how do we measure these safety records? They're based on incident rates, or how many recordable safety incidents occur per man-hours worked. This provides context of the frequency of incidents.

"There is a vast difference between having one incident within 1,000 man-hours as opposed to one in 100,000," said Jason Fugate, Senior Manager of Occupational Safety and Health.

Santee Cooper's safety numbers have been recognized statewide and nationally. We recently received the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Safety Award for our 2020 per-



formance. Nationally, we earned second place in the American Public Power Association's Safety Awards of Excellence. These awards are presented annually to acknowledge companies that have made workplace safety a priority.

"Although it's great to be recognized for our safety performance, we are continuing to improve our safety results as we drive toward an incident-free workplace," said Fugate.

In the Field

Exceptional safety performance depends on everyone, and one noteworthy achievement is the zero recordable injuries and preventable motor vehicle accidents for Distribution Engineering and Operations Department. This group includes our distribution linemen, mechanics, substation

technicians, relay technicians, and various engineering groups who are in the field daily. And it wasn't a slow year by any means.

In August, Hurricane Isaias made landfall near Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, as a Category 1 hurricane. The storm caused outages for nearly 14,000 Santee Cooper customers, but all of them had power restored within 24 hours. Prior to landfall, we recruited our friends from Pike Electric, Sumter Utilities and Service Electric, who provided 10 contract crews to assist with restoration. Fortunately, Isaias was the only event for which Santee Cooper requested assistance from other utilities, but 2020 was a very active weather year in other areas, and we were glad to return the favor by assisting others.

Santee Cooper crews restore power on Myrtle Beach's Ocean Boulevard on Aug. 4, 2020, after Hurricane Isaias moved through the Grand Strand.

After clearing up the damage from April tornadoes in and around Moncks Corner and Conway, we sent crews to help out Aiken Electric and Edisto Electric cooperatives. And, in October, Santee Cooper line crews helped with restoration efforts after Hurricane Delta for those impacted in the Upstate. We also assisted Louisianians after Hurricane Zeta, and several Santee Cooper employees even left their families on Christmas Day to help our neighbors in Tennessee recover from an ice storm.

All of this was done without a single safety incident. And, service restoration after weather events wasn't the only thing keeping our dedicated employees busy.

"2020 was our largest year for customer growth since 2007, with more than 4,700 new customers," said Neil James, Director of Distribution Engineering and Operations.

During a Pandemic

Business as usual? Not quite. Performing these functions while in the midst of a pandemic was an opportunity to create safety issues that may not have been predicted. The hard work and tenacity of our workforce were never more apparent as each event was handled with safety at the forefront.

"As with most things, COVID-19 significantly changed our operational approach during both blue-sky days and storm events," said James.

Santee Cooper did all the things the rest of the world was asked to do, including social distancing and mask wearing, but additional precautions were incorporated due to the type of work we perform. We modified our crew schedules to ensure only one crew was in the service center at a time and allowed crews to report to job sites directly from home versus starting their day at the office.

"Given normal work environments, this is quite an accomplishment," said James. "To have these results, given all the distractions associated with COVID-19, is extraordinary."

Santee Cooper President and CEO Mark Bonsall was more than pleased with this outstanding achievement.

"This is a fabulous testament to the safety culture that exists at Santee Cooper," Bonsall said. "This has been a year where there have been lots of opportunities to lessen one's focus, and that has not happened. I want to compliment everyone who has participated in making this a wonderful safety year."

After a tornado damaged power lines, Santee Cooper crews replaced poles in Moncks Corner to restore power to Fairlawn and Cedar Island neighborhoods.





Santee Cooper responded to several requests for mutual aid in 2020. Distribution Line Technician Cole Roberts was one of several employees who volunteered to work amid snow and freezing temperatures in Tennessee.

Making Their Mark

*Washington and Stinson
Help Spearhead Change
at Santee Cooper*

The challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic alongside the increased awareness of violence against Black and Brown people have helped establish 2020 as a year that will live in infamy.

By Carrah Lingo | Photos by Paul Zoeller

This story first appeared in The Community Times Magazine in its Dec.-Jan. 2020-2021 issue.



Santee Cooper's Director of Human Resources Terry Stinson (left) and Chief Audit Executive Monique Washington overcame challenges to reach success, and they're not stopping now.



he corporate world has been expected to adjust its business practices in response to the pandemic by creating a “new normal,” a term every American is tired of hearing.

At the same time, our nation’s people are also expected to navigate through a society where police shootings pop up in our social media feeds. What role do companies play in delving into the nationwide discussion of racial injustice? Santee Cooper believes it’s a pivotal one.

Change is occurring at Santee Cooper, and at a much-needed time as the past few years racial injustice nationally has spurred young and old alike to organize for Black and Brown lives and fight for positive change. That change at Santee Cooper is coming directly from the executive level in both vocal and written directives regarding diversity, equity and inclusion.

“The biggest change is the commitment from the top and the fact that we have established the new Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Awareness (IDEA) Council, which has a primary focus on diversity, inclusion and equity,” said Monique Washington, Chief Audit Executive and a co-sponsor of the IDEA Council at Santee Cooper. “This tells me we are interested, as an organization, in teaching and encouraging each other to embrace differences and seek out commonalities.”

Prior to Santee Cooper, Washington worked at Healthsource as a medical underwriter and analyst for almost five years. In 1997, her company was acquired by Cigna Corp, a Philadelphia-based company with an office in Raleigh, and because she was in the final stages of completing her MBA at The Citadel in Charleston, she applied to Santee Cooper.

Twenty-one years later she’s earned an executive-level position as Chief Audit Executive and is the first Black woman to do so at the company.

According to data gathered by McKinsey & Company, in 2019 women of color represented 18% of entry-level positions, 12% of managerial positions and only 4% of C-suite positions. Also, senior-level women are almost twice as likely as women overall to be considered “onlys.” Meaning, they are the only or one of the only women in the room at work. The study explained, “Women who are onlys are more likely than women who work with other women to feel pressure to work more and to experience microaggressions, including needing to provide additional evidence of their competence.” Black women experience this even more.

When asked about what’s motivated her to work as hard as she has, Washington said a tidbit she heard from her grandmother when she was 5 years old always stuck with her.

“One day I was watching her fix her hair while laying across her bed and I asked her why she always dressed up to go out. She turned around, looked me right in the eye and said, ‘When I step out of this house, I represent me, your grandfather, our family and our race. Same for you, and don’t embarrass me.’”

The most notable recent step Santee Cooper has made, and the one Washington is most excited about, is the creation of the IDEA Council. The group is comprised of 15 employees from cross-functional work units, and their mission is to explore opportunities to enhance a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace. They’ve conducted

*“Embrace diversity...
welcome change and learn from it.”*

*Listen, watch, and know that everything has
various layers from which you can learn and excel.*

*Be true to yourself and choose a career you enjoy
regardless of the monetary earning potential.”*

Terry Stinson, Director of Human Resources

an initial review of demographics at Santee Cooper and have pinpointed areas of focus for additional analysis. IDEA Council members are currently establishing a strategic plan for future community relationships for them to foster and grow.

Heading up the IDEA Council is Terry Stinson, Santee Cooper’s Director of Human Resources.

“Although Santee Cooper has always honored diversity, equity and inclusion, it is now taking a more vocal and intentional effort to demonstrate its position,” said Stinson. “There’s a stronger sense of purposeful desire to make a difference internally and externally, and that’s new.”

Stinson received her bachelor’s degree from Charleston Southern University, where she was offered her first full-time job in the Financial Aid Department. She excelled at CSU and worked as the Evening College Director and Minority Affairs Coordinator before leaving to join Santee Cooper. Passionate about learning and driven to succeed, Stinson continued her education at The Citadel, earning her MBA while working full-time.

“At a very early age, my mother said, ‘There will only be one Terry Annette Bryan. It’s up to you to determine what that name means and how you want it to precede you,’ and I’ve always remembered that,” said Stinson. “I have always tried to carry myself in a professional manner and display my ability to get along with anyone.”

Being both Black and female in an industry and society where white men dominate, accomplishment and success don’t come easy. When discussing the challenges Stinson has faced during her career, she said the most common one of all is being unheard.

“Some will say it’s probably because I am quiet,” said Stinson. “But I was also told that some have mistaken my meekness for weakness. I only speak when I truly have something to say.”

Washington understands that experience and further explained, “It’s the equivalent of being invited to a party and no one asking you to dance.”



IDEA COUNCIL

Members of the IDEA Council include (from left to right) Terry Stinson, Ritchie Monteith, Shawan Gillians, Darla Barnette, Chris Jiminez and Traci Grant. Not pictured: Joselle Barnett, Carlita Goff, Benjamin Hardee, Carrah Lingo, Ken Lott, Charlie Palmer, Rebecca Roser, Yvette Rowland, Edison Samuels, Michael Smith, Monique Washington and Elaine Zavala.

However, Washington shared her experience as being an “only” as the biggest challenge overall.

“Simply navigating race and gender in and out of the workplace is most challenging. Throughout my life, I have been either the only or one of very few Black women or Black or Brown people in the room.”

Washington looks forward to the day when that is no longer her reality. To persevere, she pushes forward and works hard to overcome whatever obstacles, known or unknown, she may face.

The IDEA Council is leading that push forward at Santee Cooper, and they hit the ground running in 2020 with two video campaigns recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Black History Month. Six employees participated in both video series where they shared their sentiments on the meaning of MLK Jr. Day and described the love and support the Black family provides.

“The Black family serves as that safe place or haven where you can come and feel welcomed despite feeling rejected often in the outside world,” said Alex McKoy, Senior Engineer of



As part of a video series during Black History Month, Senior Engineer Alex McKoy explained the importance of the Black family.

Distribution Planning. “It’s also that place where you can come to find assurance and strength in order to face the outside world with more resolve, more determination, more resilience and even, to an extent, with more purpose.”

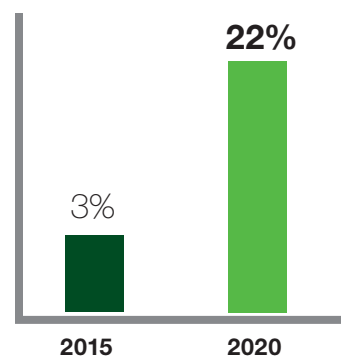
When asked what advice Stinson would give to young people entering the workforce, she said, “Embrace diversity.”

Stinson continued, “Learn to welcome change and learn from it. Listen, watch, and know that everything has various layers from which you can learn and excel. Be true to yourself and choose a career you enjoy regardless of the monetary earning potential.”

At Santee Cooper, both Washington and Stinson have been true to themselves and are proudly ushering in a new era of intentional inclusion, diversity and equity awareness at the utility.

From the Top

Santee Cooper has increased diversity at its highest executive levels from 3% in 2015 to 22% in 2020.



Photos by Paul Zoeller

The Ins

Low inflows caused low water levels on the Santee Cooper Lakes, creating a surreal view of roots and stumps that are usually below the water surface.



By Nicole A. Aiello

and Outs

of the Santee Cooper Lakes

Boaters take advantage of recreation on Lake Moultrie near Pinopolis.

The Santee Cooper Lakes, also known as Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie, are part of a 15,000 square-mile watershed that stretches into North Carolina. The size of the watershed is substantial, making it the second largest on the East Coast, and the Santee Cooper Lakes are at the end of this line.

When there is a high level of rain or other precipitation in the watershed, including the Upstate and Midlands, that water needs to go somewhere, and it eventually makes its way to Lake Marion.

Under most conditions, the majority of all outflows from the Santee Cooper Lakes system are discharged from Lake Marion through the Diversion Canal into Lake Moultrie, and then either through St. Stephen Hydroelectric units to the Santee River or through Jefferies Hydroelectric Generating Station to the Cooper River.

Conversely, when there's minimal rain through-out the watershed, water in lakes Marion and Moultrie often drops, resulting in lower-than-normal lake levels.



Regulation

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requires that Santee Cooper monitor and manage water levels on Lake Marion and maintain the safety and integrity of the dams and dikes around the lakes. That includes spilling water when the inflows threaten to raise the Lake Marion elevation above the limit of the FERC license. Santee Cooper is nearing the end of a two decade-long process to renew the federal license.

In addition to the hydro units, FERC requires an adequate spillway. The designated spillway for the Santee Cooper Lakes is the Santee Dam on Lake Marion, which empties into the Santee River and eventually flows out into the Atlantic Ocean near Georgetown.

Santee Cooper manages the water level of Lake Marion according to the Lake Marion rule curve. The purpose of the rule curve, which you can also think of as a target elevation, is to maximize the benefits to all interests, both upstream and downstream of the dam.

The rule curve guides daily target elevations for Lake Marion to account for expected seasonal inflows. The target elevation stays above 75 feet in the warmer months (mid-March to mid-October), when the expected inflows are lower, and is around 72.5 feet during the winter to account for the historical increased inflows from January to March. Santee Cooper may deviate from the rule curve during times of higher than normal inflows or expected flooding. The ultimate goal with our lake management program is to reduce the amount of water that needs to be spilled.

Lake Moultrie's water levels are dependent on Lake Marion's, and there is no official rule curve for Lake Moultrie. That's because, under normal conditions, the Lake Marion rule curve drives

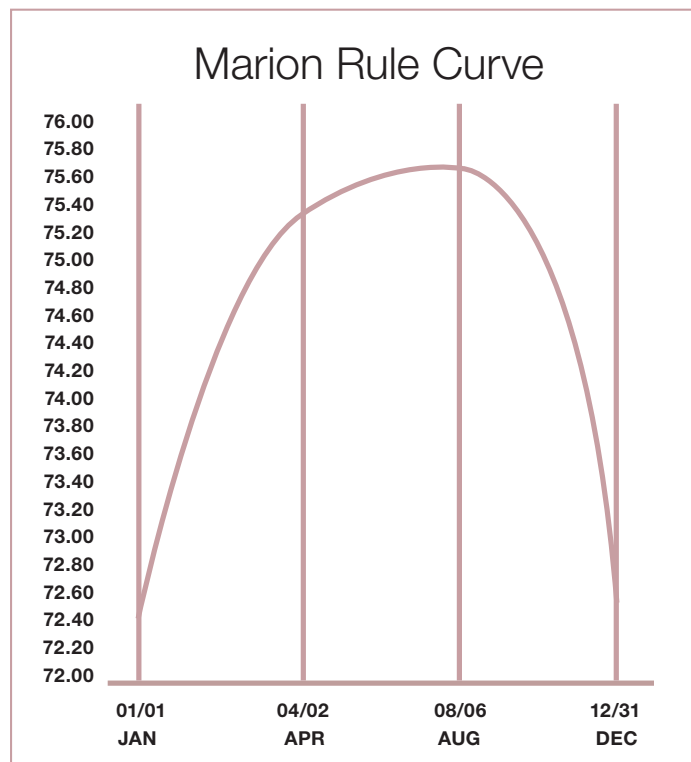
the majority of our hydro-related activities and thus maintains Lake Moultrie's water levels. Lake Moultrie's elevation trends lower than Lake Marion's elevation.

High Inflows

When heavy precipitation dramatically increases inflows to the lakes system, Santee Cooper must evaluate the impact of the inflow on lake levels to determine if a controlled spilling operation at the Santee Dam is warranted. Releasing excess water by controlled spilling manages lake levels in order to guard against threats to the integrity of the dam and dike system.

"We're monitoring lake levels and potential inflows daily and strive to release water when necessary through the Santee Dam in a slow and methodical way," said Stony Martin, Senior Manager of System Operations. "While that's our goal, sometimes inflows are too high and spilling must occur at higher rates to protect the dikes and dams."

The rule curve as recommended by FERC guides daily target elevations for Lake Marion to account for expected seasonal inflows.



Santee Cooper notifies property owners in the Santee River floodplain and the general public when spill volume meets or exceeds 10,000 cubic feet per second (CFS), if the spill volume is adjusted, and when St. Stephen runs at max capacity.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls the flow of water down the Cooper River. The contract with the Corps restricts the amount of water that can go down the Cooper River.

Low Inflows

As you can imagine, low inflows cause low lake levels. While this can be a positive time for residents living on the lakes to do dock maintenance, it can negatively affect recreation. With no other way to get water into the Santee Cooper Lakes, it's a waiting game.

This past winter was an indication of what happens when lake levels fall. Santee Cooper followed the rule curve and dispatched the

hydro units to manage the drawdown based on anticipated inflow. At times, before the inflows increased, parts of the lakes looked otherworldly. It was a beautiful but eerie sight.

“Unfortunately, Santee Cooper cannot control when or how much water travels from the watershed to Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie,” Martin explained. “What we can do is our best at following the rule curve, maximizing hydroelectricity, minimizing spilling, and protecting the lakes’ dikes and dams – and that protects us all.”

Anyone can obtain daily information about lake levels by calling the lakes information line at **800-92LAKES** or visiting **santeecooper.com/lakes**. Property owners can email **operationsplanning@santeecooper.com** to be added to the spilling notification list.

Controlled spills take place at the Santee Dam on Lake Marion to control water levels and protect the dikes and dams.





Views of both normal and low water levels on the lakes.



Low water levels on Lake Moultrie in December 2020 exposed a unique view of what normally hides beneath the surface. Though the water elevations dropped more than 4 feet, the lake levels began rising as seasonal increases from rains and snow entered the system.





BY JEFF STRAIGHT

Progress isn't something that happens overnight. It's about setting goals, making plans and staying the course. 2020 was a big opportunity for Santee Cooper, and we took to heart our commitment to reform. We were able to put into motion several initiatives that have us well on the way to becoming a leaner, greener utility.

Our primary responsibility as a utility is to deliver safe, affordable and reliable power, and we are consistently a top performer in these categories. In 2020, a challenging time for everyone, Santee Cooper tied its best year ever for safety and maintained its position as the low-cost provider in the state among all large utilities for our retail operations. And, regarding reliability, we ranked No. 4 out of more than 550 utilities of various types, which puts us in the top 1% nationally in that group.

It's important that we do more, as we focus on increasing our value to our wholesale, industrial, residential and commercial customers and to the state that owns us.

DOING THE WORK IN PROGRESS

PHOTOS BY PAUL ZOELLER





Moving Forward Financially

As with most businesses, operations depend on a strong financial foundation. Santee Cooper has made significant progress in this area. In 2019 and 2020, we refinanced \$730 million in debt to produce more than \$347 million in gross savings. We also reduced our projected fuel and operating expenses by more than \$160 million a year, on average, over five years. These are strong financial moves, and you don't have to just take our word for it.

The three major credit rating agencies have maintained our "A" category credit rating, and two of the three upgraded their outlook of Santee Cooper to "stable."

Leaner and Greener

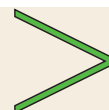
Santee Cooper also is focused on working toward a greener and more diversified energy mix.

This means reducing our use of coal to fuel our generation. On Dec. 31, 2020, we idled Winyah Generating Station's Unit 4. This is the first step in our plan to close Units 3 and 4 by the end of 2023 and the remaining two units a few years later.

We are also committed to adding 1,500 megawatts (MW) of solar energy and 200 MW of storage by the early 2030s, and we're well on our way. In January of this year, Central Electric Power Cooperative and Santee Cooper completed contracts to bring 425 MW of solar to the state by 2023 and continue to negotiate on another project that would bring that total to 500 MW.

To maintain system reliability during the transition to a more diversified energy mix, we are installing 20 MW of generation in Horry

**Solar panels
are installed at
Runway Solar Farm
in Myrtle Beach.**





Installing advanced meters, working with customers at retail offices, and offering an online customer portal are ways Santee Cooper is enhancing customers' experiences.

County as phase one of a two-phase plan that will ultimately provide 50 MW. This will be done by repurposing diesel generators from the V.C. Summer project.

Improving Our Communities

Santee Cooper has been part of the fabric of South Carolina for nearly 90 years. This means we're also strengthening our communities and bringing more businesses to the area to stimulate the local economy. Santee Cooper's Economic Development team provides loans, grants and additional support to state and local governments, electric cooperatives and other organizations that attracted thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions in economic development investment last year alone.

This year, we are developing a broadband program to support providers in a statewide rollout to unserved areas. This is vital for our state, particularly in a time when so many people rely on quality internet access to work and learn from home. We will not be providing broadband ourselves. Instead, we will be a broadband backbone providing access to excess fiber and transmission infrastructure – poles, ducts, conduits, easements and rights of way – across our statewide transmission system.

Sharing Our Progress

We understand the importance of openly communicating with our customers and other stakeholders, so we created **santeecooper.com/progress**. Whenever you're curious about what we've been up to, log in and take a look.

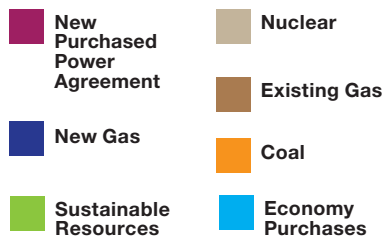
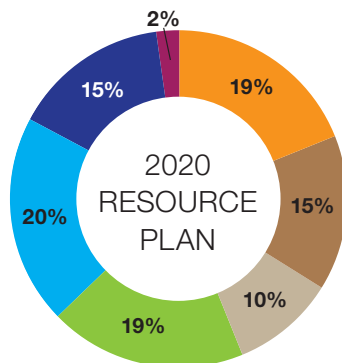
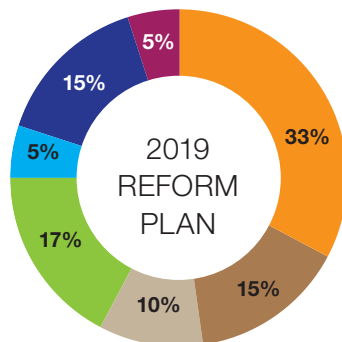
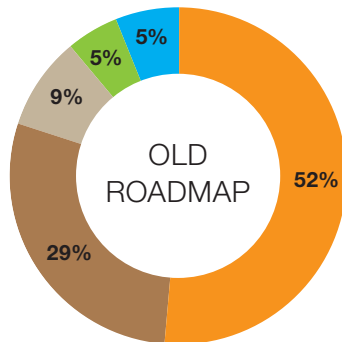
"As a state-owned power and water utility, we are pleased to share with our customers and all South Carolinians detailed information about our progress," said Mark Bonsall, President and



ENERGY RESOURCE MIX PLAN

Santee Cooper's power supply roadmap is leading to a more diverse and greener energy resource mix. Our 2020 Resource Plan projects a 55% average reduction in the 2030s in carbon emissions over 2005 levels.

The graphics at left are capacity projections for the 2030s in a 2018 roadmap, the 2019 Reform Plan and the updated 2020 Resource Plan.



CEO. "Progress isn't something that happens overnight, and we have much work ahead of us as we continue operational and financial initiatives and work to improve communications and accountability."

We achieved a lot in 2020 and recognize it's only the beginning. Let us know how we're doing as we move forward together, at info@santeecooper.com.

Dedicated to Our Community



Thank you to the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce for honoring Santee Cooper and our employees with the 2020 Community Service Award.

The Community Service Award recognizes an organization that goes above and beyond to make a difference in the Grand Strand community. The award celebrates community service deeds done in 2019. It was presented to Santee Cooper Government and Community Relations Representative Anna Strickland on April 1, 2021, instead of in 2020 because of the pandemic.

In 2019, Santee Cooper employees attended 58 school career days and collectively served more than 9,000 hours with educational, environmental, civic and healthcare organizations. Employees donated their time and talents to organizations close to their hearts, including company-sponsored events like the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, American Heart Association fundraising events, American Red Cross blood drives, and United Way Days of Caring.



We thank the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce for the award and applaud Santee Cooper employees for continuing to make a difference in our community.

Santee Cooper employees volunteer for United Way Day of Caring, an event organized to help nonprofit agencies with their needs.

Photos by Paul Zoeller



(Clockwise from top) Maintenance Superintendent Richard Shumpert gives blood during an American Red Cross blood drive at Santee Cooper headquarters. Employees pick up trash during the Horry County Service Day. Employees assist in constructing a home during a Habitat for Humanity build in Moncks Corner.



Santee Cooper Approves New Contract with Century Aluminum

At its March Board meeting, the Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved a new contract with Century Aluminum, providing all electric needs to its Mount Holly plant in Berkeley County through Dec. 31, 2023.

Santee Cooper will serve Century under an experimental rate that takes advantage of incremental power – excess capacity available until Winyah Units 3 and 4 are retired at the end of 2023 (Winyah 4 was idled Dec. 31, 2020.) Because all of Century’s load will be served from Santee Cooper resources, the deal also frees up 150 megawatts of transmission capacity, used by Century under its existing contract, which Santee Cooper can now use for economic wholesale market sales and purchases that will benefit all customers.

South Carolina Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt called the new contract “another illustration of the strength of Team SC. Working creatively and collaboratively, Santee Cooper and Century Aluminum were able to come to a balanced, mutually beneficial agreement that is positive for both the long-term prospect of Mount Holly operations and future economic opportunities.”

The new power agreement allows Century to continue operations at its Mount Holly plant, which employs about 300 people currently and is expected to increase operations and jobs under the new contract.

Celebrate The Season Donates Over \$1 Million to Local Charities

The 10th annual Celebrate The Season Holiday Lights Driving Tour raised more than \$55,000 in 2020 for local charities, bringing Celebrate The Season’s total in charitable donations to more than \$1,011,700 since 2011.

Santee Cooper President and CEO Mark Bonsall thanked sponsors, including presenting sponsor Berkeley Electric Cooperative, and volunteers.

Mike Fuller, President and CEO of Berkeley Electric Cooperative, said, “Berkeley Electric Cooperative is proud to sponsor an event that brings everyone together, which has never been more important than this year during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“We are grateful for the generous contribution and long-term partnership with Santee Cooper’s Celebrate The Season. Proceeds from this event support vital nonprofits in Berkeley County. In a year that has been so challenging for our region Santee Cooper stands out as a source of comfort,” said Darrin Goss, CEO and President of Coastal Community Foundation.

Of this year's proceeds, the Town of Moncks Corner Miracle Field Project and the Coastal Community Foundation's Giving Back to Berkeley Fund each received \$16,423.25, and the Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center received \$10,000. Celebrate The Season's top sponsors also designate charities of their choice and Home Telecom's Home Community Fund, Berkeley Electric's choice Callen Lacey Center, and Berkeley County Government's Berkeley Animal Center each received \$4,106.20.

80,000 Oak Trees Planted at Camp Hall

Santee Cooper recently planted 80,000 oak seedlings on 164 acres this winter, a milestone in wetlands mitigation, at Camp Hall. Another 300 acres will receive native hardwood seedlings within the next two years.

The Camp Hall wetlands project is the latest commitment by Santee Cooper to return property it owns to its native origin, erasing industrial impacts and improving on its original condition. A similar effort is underway in Conway, South Carolina, where the utility is restoring approximately 380 acres that include excavated and cleaned former ash ponds and an industrial cooling pond. Santee Cooper planted approximately 70,000 seedlings at the site since 2019 and sowed additional seeds. This spring, the utility planted 40 larger tree seedlings and 200 cattails at the former Grainger Station ponds.

Grand Strand Solar Station Celebrates 10 Years

Santee Cooper's Grand Strand Solar Station in Myrtle Beach came online a decade ago as the largest solar power installation in South Carolina. At 311 kilowatts, it represented a 35% increase in total solar capacity for the state and was a significant increase for Santee Cooper's solar generation. Since that time, it has generated 3,601 megawatt hours (MWh).

While Santee Cooper's commitment to solar started early, the utility has come a long way since then, with a total of 712 MW of solar power online or under contract today to serve the combined system. Most of that comes from a joint process Santee Cooper is conducting with its largest customer, Central Electric Power Cooperative, with each entity contracting for its share of 425 MW of solar output that will be online by 2023. Santee Cooper and Central continue to pursue opportunities to increase that near-term solar total to 500 MW, to be dispatched for the benefit of our combined system.



santee cooper®



LIGHTS OUT!

SEA TURTLES DIG THE DARK.

**Help protect our SC Sea Turtles during
nesting season from May 1 to Oct. 31!**

Turn out beachfront lights after dusk.

Fill in holes and remove beach chairs, tents and sports
equipment when leaving the beach.

Don't disturb nesting females or hatchlings by using
flashlights, lanterns or flash photography at night.

Keep clear of all turtle nests and report them to
SCUTE at 843-237-9821.

www.santecooper.com